VOL. 16 | 2025

BUCKEYE OPHTHALMOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISUAL SCIENCES

EYE.OSU.EDU

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Alumni, Friends, Staff, Faculty, and Learners,

Reflecting on my return to Buckeye Nation in January 2020, we experienced and showed resilience during and after the pandemic, learned and re-imagined a way of life during recovery, and were reminded of the important values of life – safety and health of mind, body and vision, and friends and family.

In this report, we share highlights over my first chair term. I am so proud and continually inspired by the collective vision of our dedicated workforce of staff, clinicians, scientists, and learners. Together, we are committed to the mission for restoring, preserving, and enhancing vision to improve lives for all. By embracing diverse perspectives, we strive to create a supportive environment of compassion, self-awareness, hope, and curiosity. This shared mission guides us to deliver exceptional patient care, drive innovation, make discoveries, and create impactful contributions to vision sciences and eye health.

Thank YOU. We are profoundly grateful to our patients for placing their trust in us to care for their vision and health. Their confidence inspires us to provide the highest quality of care. We are equally thankful to our alumni and donors, whose generosity and confidence fuels advancements in research, education, and medical outreach. Your contributions empower us to push boundaries and break silos, develop innovative treatments, and train the next generation of providers and leaders.

Our team has made every effort to be inclusive of highlights over the first chair term of 2020 – 2024, and we apologize for inadvertent omissions. These stories reflect exceptional clinical care, show cutting-edge research to combat eye diseases, expand educational opportunities, and extend outreach programs to impact our community.

Going forward with your partnership, we strive to create a brighter future by providing compassionate care, conducting innovative studies, and teaching all members of our workforce to build a future of better vision for all. Together, we strive to make a difference in the lives of our patients, learners, and communities.

With gratitude to you for supporting our mission,

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

Contents

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD | Chair
Mike Slaper, MHSA | Administrator

Laura Sladoje, BS | Outreach Manager
Lori Schumacher, BS | Development Liaison
Lisa Gibbs, BFA | Marketing Specialist
Sophie Williams, AAS | Marketing Specialist

Bob LaFollette, MBA | Past Administrator
Gretchen Engelbrecht, BFA | Consultant

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GROWTH

FACULTY

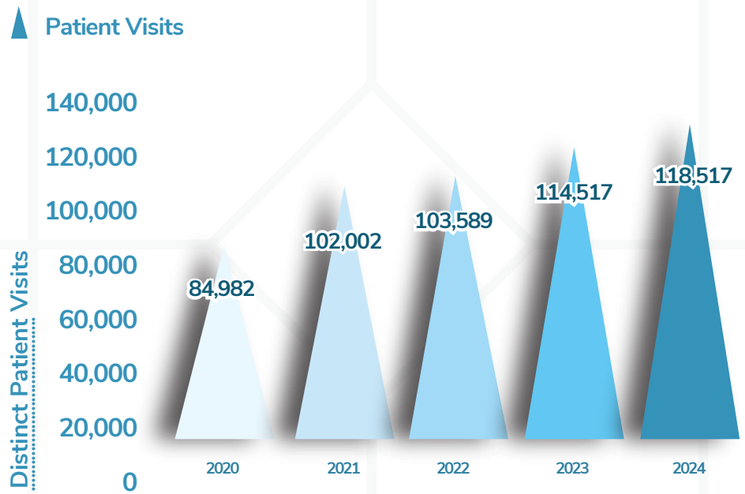
FACULTY	CLINICIANS	NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC PHYSICIANS
58	41	10

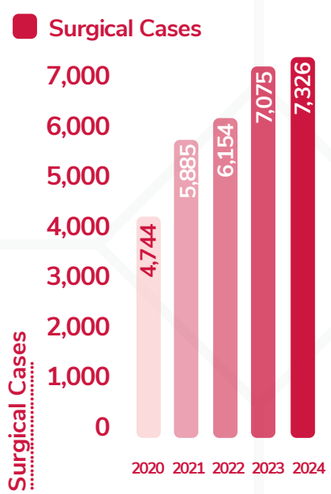
RESEARCHERS

VISION SCIENTISTS	PHYSICIAN SCIENTISTS	COURTESY FACULTY
7	3	5

LEARNERS

OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENTS	OPHTHALMOLOGY INTERNS	CLINICAL FELLOWS	RESEARCH FELLOW	OPTOMETRY RESIDENT
18	6	5	1	1





EXPANSION

PATIENT CARE LOCATIONS

- Eye and Ear Institute
- Outpatient Care Dublin
- Outpatient Care New Albany
- Dublin Post Road
- Westerville

RESEARCH LOCATIONS

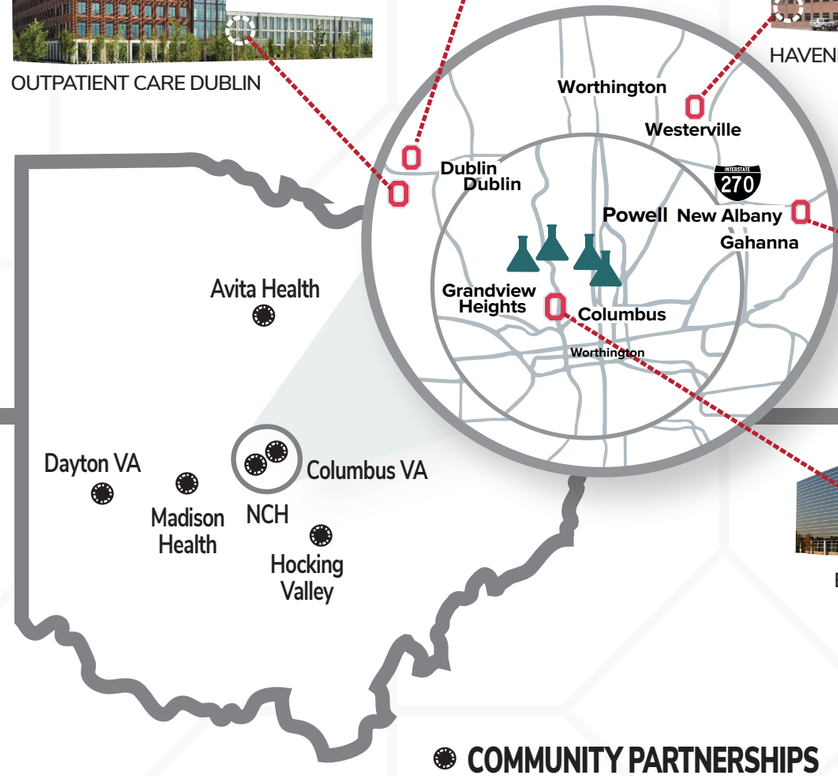
- Pelotonia Research Center
- Tzagournis Medical Research Facility
- Wiseman Hall
- Bevis Hall

OUTPATIENT CARE DUBLIN

DUBLIN POST ROAD

HAVENER EYE INSTITUTE WESTERVILLE

OUTPATIENT CARE NEW ALBANY

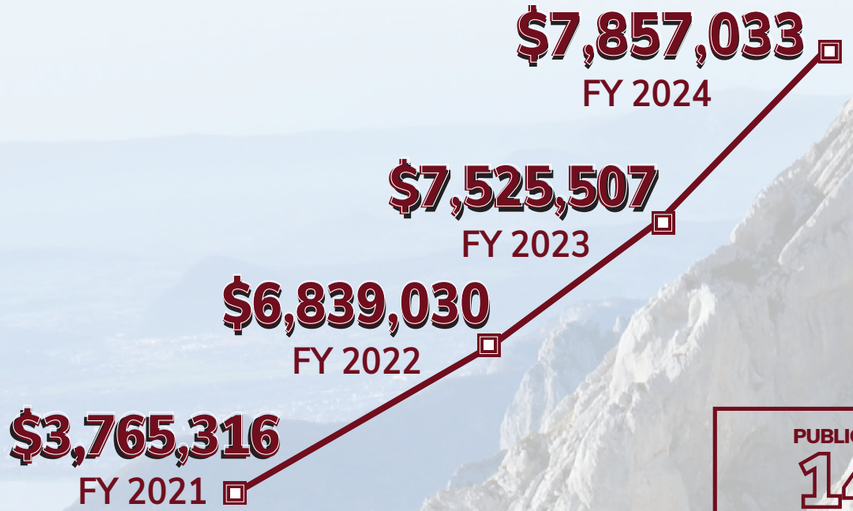


EYE AND EAR INSTITUTE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Avita Health
- Columbus VA
- Dayton VA
- Hocking Valley
- Madison Health (PCC)
- Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH)

RESEARCH GROWTH



FEDERAL GRANTS		INDUSTRY CLINICAL TRIALS		FOUNDATION GRANTS		SUBAWARDS		RESEARCH STUDIES
22	+	27	+	18	+	8	=	75

PUBLICATIONS
149

Scan for publications
go.osu.edu/DOVSPubs

DEBUT ACCOLADES

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH/ NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE (NIH/NEI)
P30 Core Grant

RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS (RPB)
New Chair Challenge Grant

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS (FFB)
Career Development Award
Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD

ENDOWMENTS

5 CHAIRS

William H. Havener, MD Chair in Ophthalmology Research

Carl M. & Grace C. Baldwin Chair in Ophthalmology

Dr. Paul A. Weber Chair in Ophthalmology

Irene D. Hirsch Chair in Ophthalmology

Martha G. & Milton Staub Chair for Research in Ophthalmology

3 PROFESSORSHIPS

Torrence A. Makley Research Professorship

Thomas F. Mauger & L. Carol Laxson Professorship for Ophthalmology Research

Frederick H. Davidorf Honorary Professorship

6 LECTURESHIPS

Arthur M. Culler Memorial
Elliot & Marjorie Davidoff
Frederick H. Davidorf
Marilyn Huheey & Fred Kapetansky
Charles & Ellen Leone
Jacob & Florence Moses

20 ALUMNI CREATED ENDOWMENTS

Robert Magnuson, MD ('49)
Torrence Makley, MD ('51)
Frederick Kapetansky, MD ('61)
Charles Leone, MD ('66)*
Ralph Norris, MD ('67)
Frederick Davidorf, MD ('69)*
Leroy Bloomberg, MD ('70)
Elson Craig, MD ('70)
Henry Croci, MD ('71)
Marilyn Huheey, MD ('75)
Paul Weber, MD ('78)*
Alan Letson, MD ('81)
Thomas Mauger, MD ('88)
L. Carol Laxson, MD ('89)
John Pajka, MD ('90)
Robert Wang, MD ('00)
Steven Meadows, MD ('05)

6 PHYSICIAN CREATED ENDOWMENTS

Drs. Eli Alcorn & John Alcorn
Dr. Elliot & Marjorie Davidoff
Dr. Martin Lubow
Dr. James Moses*
Dr. Theodore Suie

*Created more than one fund

21 GRATEFUL PATIENT CREATED ENDOWMENTS

Carl and Grace Baldwin
Helen Clabaugh
Leo & Grace Faust
John & Annie Glenn
Ruby Grill
Roger & Margery Henderson
Mary Lou Johnson
Krishan & Vicky Joshi
Mary Jo & Robert Kent
George & Eleanor Kilgore
Ann LaFontaine
Mary & Emery Laughlin
Dorothy Bittner Louks
Richard & Joyce Miller
Don & Abby Robinson
Theodore Moor
Michael & Patricia Saad
Mae, Sadie & DP Snyder
Elmer & Ruth Tankersley
Eldon Tobias
Jessie & Harold Zieg

4 GRATEFUL PATIENT CREATED CURRENT USE FUNDS

Warner & Patti Blow
Harry Esbenshade III
Thom & Pat Robinson
Sarah Slack

ENDOWMENTS

$22.5 million received from **Grateful Patients**

$6.3 million received from **Alumni**

CURRENT ENDOWMENT
$28,775,510
AS OF 6.30.2024

TOTAL FUNDS

51 ENDOWMENTS
+34 CURRENT USE
85 FUNDS
SUPPORTING EDUCATION, RESEARCH & CLINICAL CARE

CLINICIANS

MONA
ADELI, MD

DAVID
CASTELLANO, MD

COLLEEN
CEBULLA, MD, PhD

RAYMOND
CHO, MD, FACS

FREDERICK
DAVIDORF, MD*

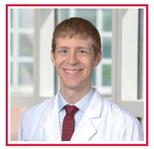
SHELLY
JAIN, MD

REBECCA
KUENNEN, MD

ALAN
LETSON, MD*

IRINA
LIVSHITZ, MD

CHRISTINE
MARTINEZ, MD



TYLER
OOSTRA, MD

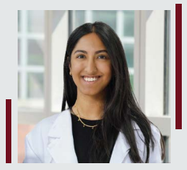
STEPHANIE PISANO,
OD, FSLS, FAAO

ANDREA
SAWCHYN, MD

MARK
SLABAUGH, MD

ANA SUELVES
COGOLLOS, MD, PhD

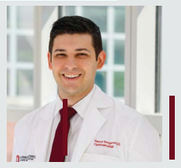
NEW CLINICIANS SINCE 2020



Oculofacial & Orbital

SRUTI AKELLA, MD

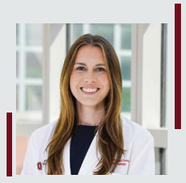
Fellowship: Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, University of Illinois
Residency: Montefiore Medical Center
MD: State U. of New York at Stony Brook



Retina & Uveitis

REECE BERGSTROM, DO

Fellowships: Surgical Retina, Ohio State University; Uveitis & Ocular Disease, Cleveland Clinic
Residency: Ohio Health Doctor's Hospital
DO: Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine



Neuro-Ophthalmology

MAIRGHREAD CASEY, MD

Fellowships: Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Neuro-Ophthalmology, UCLA
Residency: Ohio State University
MD: Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Genetic Counselor

TAYLOR SABATO, MPH, MMSc, LGC

MMSc: Emory University, School of Medicine
MPH: Purdue University

Comprehensive

MAX SCOVILLE, MD

Residency: The University of Washington
MD: The Ohio State University

Optometry

ANASTASIA SOULAS, OD

Optometry School: Ohio State University
Residency: Ocular Diseases, University of Kentucky

JOSHUA
EVANS, MD

GLORIA
FLEMING, MD

CARLA
FORD, MD

ANDREW
HENDERSHOT, MD

SARA
HUFFMAN, OD

RANDY
MCLAUGHLIN, OD, MS

BARBARA
MIHALIK, OD, FAAO

SAYOKO
MOROI, MD, PhD

CHANTELLE MUNDY,
OD, FAAO, FSLS

MATTHEW
OHR, MD

AMIT
TANDON, MD

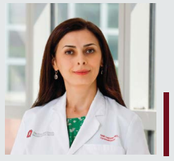
PAUL
WEBER, MD*

MICHAEL
WELLS, MD

FATOUMATA
YANOGA, MD

SARAH
YOEST, OD

*Emeritus



Neuro-Ophthalmology

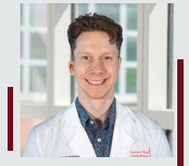
NELLI GALOYAN, MD

Fellowships: Neuro-Ophthalmology, Ohio State University; Neuro-Ophthalmology, Duke Medical Center
Residency: National Institute of Health, Armenia
MD: Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia

Retina

THOMAS MENDEL, MD, PhD

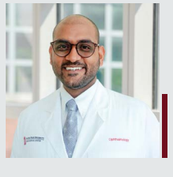
Fellowships: Surgical Retina, Cleveland Clinic; Pediatric Surgical Retina, U. of Michigan
Residency: Vanderbilt Eye Institute
MD/PhD: U. of Virginia School of Medicine



Glaucoma

ZACHARY MIKOLAJ, MD

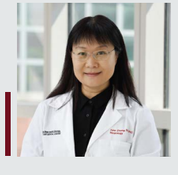
Fellowship: Glaucoma, Ohio State University
Residency: Ohio State University
MD: Ohio State University



Neuro-Ophthalmology

HERSH VARMA, MD

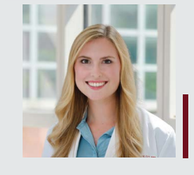
Fellowships: Pediatric Ophthalmology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital; Neuro-Ophthalmology, University of Cincinnati Medical Center
Residency: Ohio State University
MD: Ohio State University



Neuro-Ophthalmology

JUNE ZHANG, MD, PhD

Fellowships: Neuro-Ophthalmology, Emory University Eye Center; Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology, Ohio State University
Residency: Neurology, University of Illinois
MD/PhD: Peking Union Medical College



Optometry

KRISTEN ZULLIGER, OD, MS

Optometry School: Ohio State University
Residency: Ocular Diseases, Columbus VA

Luca Conte, Diana Parker, Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD and tech Amanda Elliott, COA with new iCare HOME2 devices

DIANA'S INSPIRING GLAUCOMA STORY

Diana Parker and her husband, Luca Conte made a generous donation to the Department. Diana requested that the donation be used to expand the Department's existing program of eye pressure monitoring with the newest FDA approved iCare HOME2 tonometer devices. Diana appreciated the ability to take her eye pressure at home and the additional devices doubled the department's ability to advance glaucoma care with eye pressure monitors at home.

Traditionally, treatment for patients with glaucoma includes eye pressure data measured during office hours, typically between 8am and 5pm. However, clinical research has shown that some patients have peak eye pressure outside of these hours. Such limitation on detecting these peak eye pressures may contribute to the progression of glaucoma.

"I feel patients need to take an active role in their healthcare and it's difficult to do that without tools and one of those tools is the home tonometer."

– Diana Parker

The Department launched "real world" eye pressure monitoring with a technology called iCare HOME in 2020. Patients are trained to use this device for measuring their eye pressures about six times throughout the day over several weeks. This data provides a comprehensive picture of eye pressure fluctuations and helps establish baseline fluctuations before and while on treatment. Glaucoma specialists use this data to determine if treatment adjustments are needed to decrease large eye pressure fluctuations. In the end, low pressure fluctuations will help save eyesight and decrease glaucoma-related blindness.

Casey Miley, COA; David Castellano, MD and Jenifer Terebuh

INNOVATIVE DRY EYE CARE FOR JENIFER

Jenifer Terebuh lived with severe dry eye for many years. Her eyes felt irritated, dry, and gritty most of the time, especially at night. She attributed her discomfort to spending a lot of time on the computer and had been using over-the-counter lubricating drops to manage the fatigue and irritation.

Dr. Castellano explained a specialized treatment for dry eye relief and Jenifer was excited to begin her treatments. He started Jenifer with a 2-pronged treatment approach with prescription eye drops and Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) therapy. After four 10-minute IPL treatments spaced a little over a month apart, along with daily eye drops, she noticed a difference in how her eyes felt. IPL targets blood vessels below the skin's surface and with the deep layers of the skin. Pulses of light stimulate production of collagen and elastin while closing overactive capillaries. IPL is used to treat various skin conditions, such as skin and eyelid inflammation, styes, rosacea, and more.

"I am thrilled to offer my patients this specialized dry eye treatment and see the impactful results."

– Dr. Castellano

Prescription eye drops for dry eye can be costly. For qualified patients, the Department offers assistance to process applications to help with the expense of dry eye medications. This program is funded by grateful dry eye patients and donors.

Scan for IPL info
go.osu.edu/IPL

"My IPL treatment was quick and painless and made a difference!"

– Jenifer Terebuh

LAWRENCE'S PATH TO RECOVERY

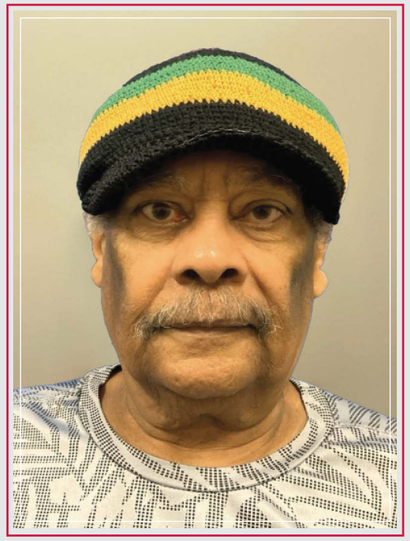
"Dr. Akella is my hero! She did a fantastic job, I was in bad shape."- Lawrence High

Lawrence High was struggling with Thyroid Eye Disease (TED). His right eye was so swollen that his vision was impaired, and his left eye was getting worse every day. Lawrence, after visiting multiple doctors with no success, found Dr. Akella, oculofacial surgeon. Unable to drive, due to his condition, Lawrence asked a friend to take him to his appointment at The Ohio State University Eye and Ear Institute.

Dr. Akella immediately admitted him into the hospital so she could monitor him while he underwent treatment. During his ten day hospital stay, Lawrence was given an anti-inflammatory IV medication that significantly reduced swelling around his eyes. He continued with weekly treatments for two months and saw amazing improvement. His vision was restored from 20/400 to 20/25 in the right eye and from 20/50 to 20/20 in the left eye.

"It has been such a privilege to care for Lawrence and to help restore his sight. His resilience and gratitude remind me each day of the difference we can make through compassionate, expert care."

- Dr. Sruti Akella

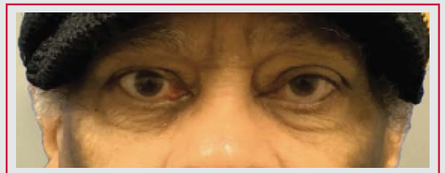


Lawrence High

Today, Lawrence's vision is remarkably better and his quality of life is drastically improved. He has regained his independence and is driving and living a full life. He is very thankful for the ophthalmic care he received from Dr. Akella at Ohio State.

BEFORE

AFTER



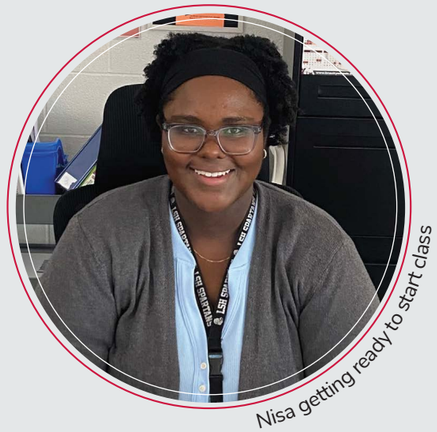
NISA'S JOURNEY TO RESTORED VISION

"I appreciate my doctors explaining everything to me and my family in a way that allowed us to understand what my body was experiencing."

- Nisa Clay

Nisa Clay, a high school history teacher, now leads an active and fulfilling life. Two years ago, she faced a life-altering change when numbness in her left leg and blurry vision sent her to the family doctor. Her doctor ordered an MRI and referred her to ophthalmologist and OSU Alumni, Dr. Mitch Romito in her hometown of Lima, Ohio. After examining her, Dr. Romito suggested she go immediately to the OSU emergency department in Columbus.

Nisa was admitted and spent 21 days in the hospital undergoing many tests and treatments under the direction of OSU Neurologist, Dr. Tirisham Gyang and Neuro-Ophthalmologist, Dr. June Zhang. During her stay in the hospital, her vision continued to worsen to 20/200 in one eye and to count fingers in the other eye.



Nisa getting ready to start class

Nisa Clay

After extensive testing and MRI scans ruled out other diseases and tumors, Nisa was diagnosed with optic neuritis, an inflammation of the optic nerve which disrupts the ability of the eyes to send visual information to the brain. Over the course of a year with monthly treatments, including intravenous immunoglobulin therapy (IVIG), plasma exchange, and high-dose steroids, her vision gradually improved, ultimately returning to 20/20 in both eyes.

"Time is vision and our team made a difference for this patient because we took a multidisciplinary approach to create a successful treatment plan."

- Dr. June Zhang

Nisa is grateful to her doctors, and especially Dr. Zhang, for working tirelessly to research innovative treatments, providing compassionate care and thoughtful communication to her and her family.

Joyce and Jim Goins

JIM'S LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

In the summer of 2023, **Jim Goins** suddenly lost vision while doing a household chore. His wife, Joyce, took him to the emergency room near his hometown of Dayton, Ohio. The ER doctor suspected a detached lens and consulted with a local ophthalmologist to confirm the diagnosis. Jim was then referred to Ohio State Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and was triaged to Dr. Matthew Ohr, who is fellowship trained in both cornea and retina.

Dr. Ohr performed a sutured lens surgery which involves securing an intraocular lens (IOL) to the sclera of the eye with sutures. Jim's sutured lens surgery was successful and the Goins are overjoyed with the results.

"The surgery was a game changer. Dr. Ohr is a miracle worker!"

- Joyce and Jim Goins

They are thrilled to share their positive interactions and involvement with the surgery center nurses, and of course, their physician, Dr. Ohr and his staff.

"It's meaningful when I can make a difference in the patient's lives. Jim's surgical outcome is extremely rewarding. I strive to help patients every day."

- Dr. Matthew Ohr

Jim is now enjoying all of his favorite activities such as reading and taking long walks with Joyce. They both feel that coming to Ohio State for eye care was a life changing experience.

Judy DeDario and Stephanie Pisano, OD, FSLS, FAAO

JUDY'S VISION TRANSFORMATION

Judy DeDario, an Ohio native struggled with eye pain from childhood through her teenage years when a visit to the hospital revealed a diagnosis of glaucoma. Despite using prescribed eye drops, her condition worsened, resulting in numerous hospitalizations and surgeries. Amid these challenges, Judy lived her life fully, got married, and raised children.

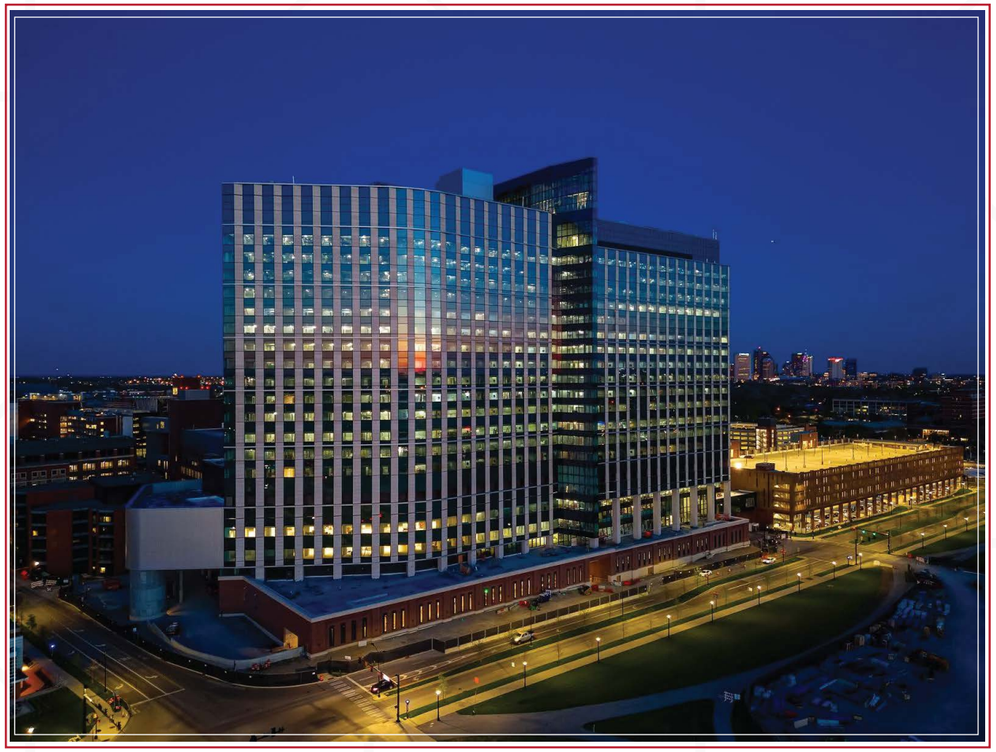
By the age of fifty-two, she faced the reality of being blind. After enduring numerous surgeries and eye medications, she encountered a new challenge: neurotrophic keratitis, which caused recurring abrasions in her eyes. Despite many treatments, her eyes would not heal, leaving her feeling hopeless.

Scan for specialty contact lens go.osu.edu/Lens

Judy was referred by Dr. Jennifer Shade, an OSU alumna, to Dr. Stephanie Pisano, an expert in specialty contact lenses at The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Judy gave it one last chance with Dr. Pisano's expertise. Utilizing Smap3D technology, Dr. Pisano created a 3D image of Judy's eye, enabling her to fit Judy with specialized scleral contact lenses. This innovative solution was supported by Prevent Blindness, which sponsored the cost of her lenses.

"People often overlook the world's beauty, I'm grateful for new clarity in seeing its true magnificence!" -Judy DeDario

NEW HOSPITAL TOWER



A new 1.9 million square foot inpatient tower is underway. This new tower will focus on clinical care, support of multidisciplinary teams and promoting continuous learning environments for clinicians and learners.

“The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center is the best adult hospital in Central Ohio”

- U.S. News & World Report’s 2024-2025 “Best Hospitals”

Construction is on track to be completed in 2026. The finishing touches will happen in four phases over the next year. It will include up to 820 beds in private room settings with large windows to enhance the patient experience.

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center’s vision and ideas are taking shape in real time. The tower team is creating a state-of-the-art health care environment that will advance research, education and patient care missions. The anticipation continues to grow as the tower continues towards completion.

PELOTONIA RESEARCH CENTER

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; Shiego Tamiya, PhD; Nagaraj Kerur, DVM, PhD and Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD

PELOTONIA RESEARCH CENTER IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FACILITY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Pelotonia Research Center (PRC) at The Ohio State University is a groundbreaking facility dedicated to advancing research and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. This state-of -the-art center opened in 2023 and reflects the university's commitment to research discoveries and breakthroughs.

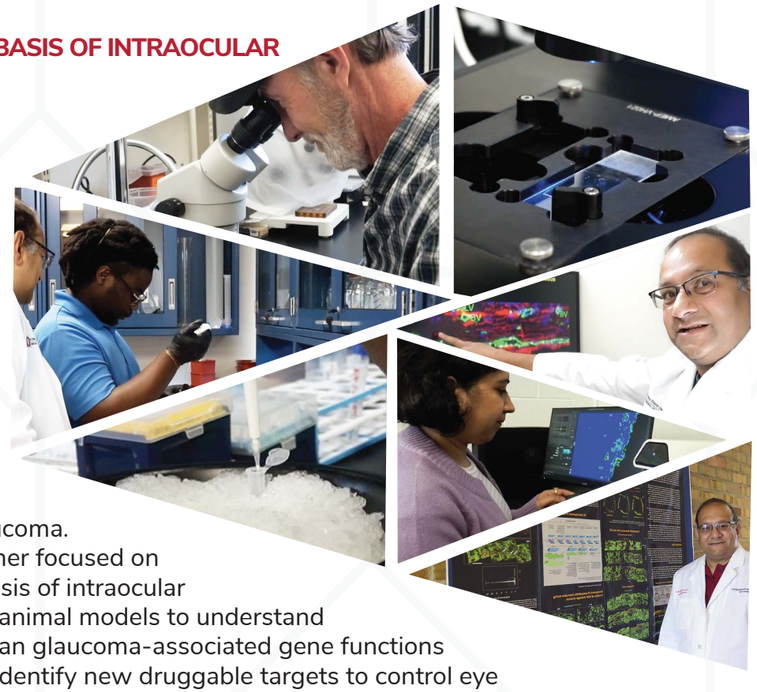
PRC includes an ophthalmology research neighborhood. This unique environment enables vision scientists, **Dr. Gao, Dr. Kerur, Dr. Mendel** and **Dr. Tamiya** to collaborate with various scientific experts, strengthening the bridge between ophthalmology and other disciplines.

Current and future faculty will further new discoveries to improve conditions such as diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinal detachments, corneal dystrophies, eye cancers, eye genetics, vision impairment, and population health.

PRC is more than just a facility - it is a dynamic hub of collaboration and we are proud it includes ophthalmology. By bridging gaps between research and clinical practice, PRC plays a crucial role in advancing knowledge from bench-to-bedside and embraces the mission to "Restore, Preserve, and Enhance Vision to Improve Lives for All," creating a brighter future for patients.

KRISHNAKUMAR KIZHATIL, PhD

NEW VISION SCIENTIST
CELLUAR AND MOLECULAR BASIS OF INTRAOCULAR PRESSURE REGULATION



Dr. Kizhatil is a cell and developmental biologist working to find cures for glaucoma. He is an NIH-funded researcher focused on determining the molecular basis of intraocular pressure regulation. He uses animal models to understand the mechanistic basis of human glaucoma-associated gene functions and associated pathways to identify new druggable targets to control eye pressure and glaucoma. Dr. Kizhatil's group uses cutting edge cell biology methods, genomics and state of the art microscopy to study the development and biology of Schlemm's canal, an essential structure for controlling eye pressure. His group aims to develop tools with clinical potential to control Schlemm's canal (SC) function to reduce eye pressure.

The Kizhatil lab investigates SC biology in the context of aqueous humor outflow (AQH) and intraocular pressure (IOP) regulation. Recent single-cell and bulk sequencing studies from the lab confirmed the lab's previous finding of SC's unique vessel phenotype, combining lymphatic and blood vessel traits. These findings serve as a molecular framework to explore pathways controlling IOP. Building on these insights, the lab's research focuses on lymphatic molecules, mechanotransduction, and amino acid transporters in SC. Recently the lab found that mechanotransduction of IOP elevation in SC cells activates FYN tyrosine kinase which phosphorylates cell-cell adhesion protein VE-CADHERIN to loosen SC junctions, increasing AQH outflow, and reducing IOP. Additional projects investigate roles of primary cilia and glycocalyx in mechanotransduction. Another key aspect of the lab is to find function of human glaucoma genes using mouse models in SC and retinal ganglion cells. These efforts aim to identify novel drug targets for glaucoma therapy.

Scan for video
go.osu.edu/Kizhatil

NAGARAJ KERUR, DVM, PhD

NEW VISION SCIENTIST
CELL DEATH PATHWAYS, MICROBIAL INFECTION AND IMMUNOLGY

Dr. Kerur

Dr. Kerur and his research team study the molecular mechanisms underlying inflammation and cell death pathways involved in the development and progression of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). His work focuses on the inflammasome and cgAS-STING pathways, which are involved in inflammation, cell death, and aging. His research has shown how these pathways contribute to the dysfunction and death of retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells, a key process in AMD.

Dr. Kerur

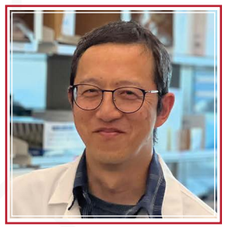
Lab Team

Dr. Kerur's lab also investigates aging-relevant molecular drivers of pathological angiogenesis in the eye. Recently, his team explored the potential of targeting telomerase as a therapeutic approach for neovascular AMD. Through these studies, Dr. Kerur aims to advance understanding of AMD and to identify new therapeutic strategies to prevent vision loss.

Scan for video
go.osu.edu/Kerur

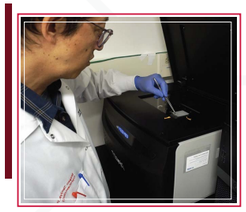
SHIGEO TAMIYA, PhD

NEW VISION SCIENTIST
MOLECULAR MECHANISMS, PROLIFERATIVE VITREORETINOPATHY



Dr. Tamiya

Dr. Tamiya and his laboratory team investigate how ocular cells transform into myofibroblasts, the key cell type involved in scar formation that causes proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR) after retinal detachment surgery or posterior eye injury. They use tools in cell biology and physiology to study cell structural and functional change into myofibroblasts, and to examine signaling pathways to determine factors essential for this transformation.



Dr. Tamiya

Lab Researcher

Dr. Tamiya's lab has identified a family of channels as potential druggable targets to limit scarring that causes PVR. He is hoping this will eventually lead to improving surgical and vision outcomes for affected patients, and preserve visual acuity after retinal detachment surgeries and eye trauma.

Scan for video
go.osu.edu/STamiya

GENE THERAPY INSTITUTE

ADVANCING VISION RESTORATION
OSU GENE THERAPY INSTITUTE

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

The OSU Gene Therapy Institute (GTI) is at the forefront of transformative gene therapy research and genetic-based treatments across multiple medical disciplines. The GTI is adjacent to the ophthalmology research neighborhood in the PRC. The ophthalmology team collaborates closely with experts to develop innovative, gene-based therapies targeting vision restoration and the treatment of eye diseases such as inherited retinal disorders, macular degeneration, and glaucoma.

The PRC infrastructure brings together an interdisciplinary team of scientists, physicians, and industry partners who work together to accelerate gene therapy advancements and move novel treatments from the lab to clinical care. By combining expertise in ophthalmic research, genetics, and gene therapy, our department aims to provide hope and new therapeutic options for patients facing vision loss.

Scan to visit GTI page
go.osu.edu/GTI

THOMAS MENDEL, MD, PhD

NEW VISION SCIENTIST AND RETINA PHYSICIAN
GENE THERAPY AND INHERITED RETINAL EYE DISEASES

Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD

Dr. Mendel and his laboratory team are part of the OSU GTI, a research neighborhood in the PRC. This strategic placement positions him to collaborate across various fields of science. Dr. Mendel is building a molecular therapeutics program to develop and implement gene therapies in patients with inherited retinal eye diseases (IRDs). Genetics research is essential for precision-based care that can provide earlier diagnosis, improve outcomes, and determine the best treatments and their timing for each patient.

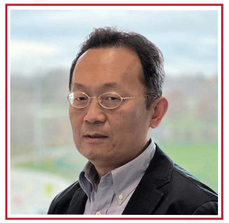
Patients with IRDs slowly lose their vision due to damaged cells in the retina and share common symptoms of diminished vision in low light or night blindness, loss of color vision, and light sensitivity. Dr. Mendel provides care to both adults and children, who can be affected by these diseases, in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at OSU and at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

"This is the first time in human history that we can address these diseases."
– Dr. Thomas Mendel

Scan for video
go.osu.edu/DrMendel

RAYMOND GAO, PhD

STATISTICAL GENETICS SPECIALIST



Raymond Gao, PhD

Dr. Gao is a specialist in genetics and artificial intelligence (AI) focusing to reduce glaucoma-related blindness. With funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other sources, his team collectively studies the genetic architecture of eye pressure and glaucoma to develop AI-driven prediction models for glaucoma.

"Our research advances understanding of the genetic and AI-based landscape of ocular diseases."
– Dr. Raymond Gao

Dr. Gao discusses research

Through collaboration, they are committed to using genetics and AI to transform glaucoma care from "event-based" approaches to precision medicine with the ultimate goal of reducing and preventing blindness from glaucoma.

TAYLOR SABATO, MPH, MMSc, LGC

NEW CLINICAL FACULTY
LEADING GENETIC COUNSELING INITIATIVES FOR VISION HEALTH

Taylor Sabato, MPH, MMSc, LGC

Taylor is a genetic counselor and brings a wealth of expertise to OSU's genetic counseling team. Taylor is building and leading a robust genetics program focused on ocular health. Her work is instrumental in providing patients and their families with personalized genetic risk assessments for eye conditions, including inherited retinal dystrophy, macular degeneration, glaucoma, corneal dystrophies, and keratoconus. Through genetic counseling, she helps families understand hereditary ocular disease risks, offers critical education, and facilitates genetic testing when appropriate. Taylor's dedication to advancing genetic counseling is making a lasting impact on patient care and shaping the future of genetic services in ophthalmology.

Grateful Patient Creates Fund for Gene Therapy
Fund #318396

Dr. Thomas Mendel has a patient who made the generous initial donation to create the **Gene Therapy and Innovative Therapeutics Fund** to support Dr. Mendel's genetics research.

This patient is a wonderful example of a donor supporting our vision researchers with valuable funds to advance their research endeavors and move their findings from the lab to innovative clinical care for patients.

go.osu.edu/EyeGiving

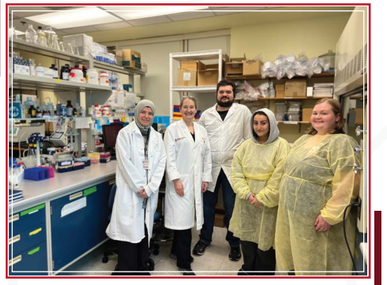
Whether you are interested in creating an immediate impact or a lasting legacy, you can create a fund to support your interests.

COLLEEN CEBULLA, MD, PhD

MIGRATION INHIBITORY FACTOR, RETINAL HEALTH AND DISEASE

Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD

Dr. Cebulla was awarded $1.18 million from the Department of Defense (DOD) for a 3-year project to study Migration Inhibitory Factor (MIF) and glucocorticoid therapeutics a synergistic treatment to promote neuronal survival in traumatic retinal injury. This builds on her NIH R01 $1.97 million grant titled "Characterization of the role of MIF on retinal health and disease." Her lab has identified a pro-inflammatory protein: macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF), that is at high levels during retinal injuries and can lead to toxic effects at the site of damage.



Dr. Cebulla with lab team

Her lab has shown that inhibition of this protein leads to the preservation of retinal structure and function. This protein has also been shown to reduce the normal effectiveness of steroids to decrease retinal inflammation. There is increasing evidence that combining MIF inhibition with steroids may more effectively protect different systemic tissues and decrease inflammation. The proposed research will investigate the effects of combining steroids and MIF inhibition on neuronal protection during retinal injury.

MOHAMED ABDEL-RAHMAN, MD, PhD

MELANOMA, CLINICAL GENETICS AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, MD, PhD

Dr. Abdel-Rahman, physician scientist, has worked over 20 years with colleagues to discover genetic syndromes that predispose patients and their family members to uveal melanoma and other cancers. This work led to the identification of a cancer syndrome in 2011 caused by mutations in the *BAP1* tumor-suppressor gene known as *BAP1*-Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (*BAP1*-TPDS). Several tumors were identified in *BAP1*-TPDS including uveal (ocular) melanoma, mesothelioma (tumor of the lining of the chest and abdomen), cutaneous (skin) melanoma, meningioma (tumor of the lining of the brain), kidney cancer, as well as preneoplastic melanocytic skin lesions and other cancers and non-cancer conditions. This discovery was made possible by a generous donation through the Patti Blow Research Fund in Ophthalmology as well as a National Institute of Health grant. The *BAP1* gene is now included in clinical cancer germline gene panels worldwide. Since its discovery, more than 400 distinct families have been reported with disease causing mutation in *BAP1* as well as an increasing number of variants of uncertain significance (VUS) with unknown risk for disease.

With additional funding from the National Cancer Institute and Department of Defense, Dr. Abdel-Rahman is expanding the research to assess the risk for different cancers in patients who inherit *BAP1* gene mutations and to develop a molecular test that could properly classify the hundreds of VUS in *BAP1* that have been identified. He also continues his work on identifying genes other than *BAP1* that could predispose to uveal melanoma.

Scan for event info
BAP-1 Symposium
May 2, 2025
go.osu.edu/BAP1

SAYOKO MOROI, MD, PhD

GLAUCOMA RESEARCH

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

Dr. Moroi, department chair and glaucoma specialist, has a diverse research portfolio. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Moroi leads a clinical trial with three centers that measure aqueous fluid dynamics to assess the regulatory mechanisms of intraocular pressure (IOP) and changes that take place in glaucoma. In another study, patients are trained to use an iCare HOME instrument to measure their IOP at any time of the day or night while at home, which provides IOP data beyond office hours. By combining the fluid dynamics data and the real world IOP data, Drs. Moroi and Carol Toris strive to answer the question of why some patients respond poorly while others do well with glaucoma medications. Using this approach, glaucoma care can shift from trial-and-error treatments to precision-based medicine.

Other studies led by Dr. Moroi include telemedicine, ocular biomechanics, head mounted display technology for testing and vision enhancement, social determinants of health, women's health, and genetic markers of glaucoma.

CAROL TORIS, PhD

GLAUCOMA AQUEOUS HUMOR DYNAMICS

Carol Toris, PhD

Dr. Toris, physiologist, has teamed up with Dr. Moroi to study the anatomy and physiology of intraocular pressure regulation. In one study, they collect data on ocular fluid circulation and drainage from healthy volunteers and participants with high IOP to determine how changes in this circulation alters the eye's pressure or IOP. If IOP rises, the risk of glaucoma increases. Another project uses new imaging technologies to develop improved methods to accurately me asure ocular fluid dynamics with minimal impact on the eye. Dr. Toris has also teamed up with colleagues at The University of Nebraska Medical Center to study ways to surgically alter parts of the ocular fluid drainage pathway. The techniques reduce the resistance in the pathway or widen the pathway to decrease eye pressure without the need for eye drop treatments.

Dr. Toris using the Fluorotron Master

CYNTHIA ROBERTS, PhD

CORNEAL BIOMECHANICS IN OCULAR DISEASE

Cynthia Roberts, PhD

Dr. Roberts leads a $1.7 million renewed R01 funded project that integrates biomedical engineering and eye diseases. She and her team are building upon previous research that investigated the biomechanical characteristics of eye pathology including corneal stiffness and intraocular pressure. She is using the new longitudinal data to create novel biomechanical risk models for biomechanically-driven progression in eye diseases like keratoconus, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy. These advancements have the potential to enhance the clinical management of eye diseases, offering new potential biomechanical biomarkers to improve patient outcomes.

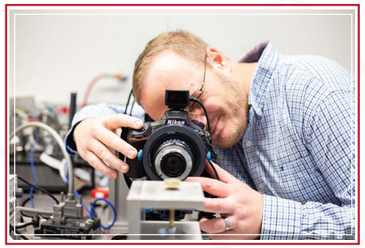
Dr. Roberts with research student

MATTHEW REILLY, PhD

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, AGE-RELATED VISION LOSS

Matthew Reilly, PhD

Dr. Reilly, courtesy faculty, and his team are working on a five-year, $1.97 million research project to develop a biomechanical model of the aging lens. This model will improve understanding of how changes in lens shape and biomechanics contribute to age-related visual impairment, particularly presbyopia. Their goal is to identify interventions to delay or prevent presbyopia, a common condition affecting close to 1.8 billion people globally over the age of fifty. This research project is essential for addressing the dynamics of age-related vision loss. In addition, Dr. Reilly has received $3.55 million from the Department of Defense (DOD) to study the effects of blast and optic nerve injuries.



KATELYN SWINDLE-REILLY, PhD

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, CHEMICALS & BIOMOLECULAR

Katelyn Swindle-Reilly, PhD

Dr. Swindle-Reilly, courtesy faculty, is an Associate Professor and College of Engineering Innovation Scholar. She leads a large collaborative research program working to use polymers to improve visual outcomes. Her ophthalmology collaborators on these projects include Drs. Mendel, Kerur, Ohr, Racine, Reilly, Cebulla, Heisler-Taylor, and Tamiya.

Dr. Swindle-Reilly leads an R01 funded project to develop tunable drug delivery technology for long-term release after intravitreal injection. Drs. Ohr and Swindle-Reilly are inventors on this drug delivery technology and are working to translate this to patient care.

She also directs a DOD funded project to explore new therapeutics and an anti-inflammatory nanoparticle delivery system to treat proliferative vitreoretinopathy and traumatic optic neuropathy. She is also part of several NEI funded projects to develop corneal drug delivery systems, investigate the impact of vitreous degeneration on glaucoma, and evaluate new anti-inflammatory treatments for age-related macular degeneration.

Dr. Swindle-Reilly and student

Research team

JUN LIU, PhD

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, OCULAR ELASTOGRAPHY

Jun Liu, PhD

Dr. Liu, courtesy faculty, is the Hazel C. Youngberg Trustees Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Her research focuses on developing innovative imaging and elastography techniques to quantify ocular biomechanics as disease biomarkers for glaucoma, myopia, and keratoconus. Her current research projects include 3D imaging and ultrasound elastography for the posterior eye to advance understanding of glaucoma pathophysiology and improved ability to predict disease progression. Her research also includes corneal biomechanical characterization using ocular pulse elastography for improved diagnosis of keratoconus that incorporates biomechanical evaluation and 3D imaging with morphometric and biomechanical analysis of the posterior sclera and optic nerve head, for understanding myopia progression and risk for glaucoma.

STACEY CHOI, PhD

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, ADAPTIVE OPTICS RETINAL IMAGING & FUNCTION

Stacey Choi, PhD

Dr. Choi, courtesy faculty, is a Professor in the College of Optometry. Dr. Choi's research interests are clinical application of high resolution retinal imaging systems. They were designed and built in collaboration with Co-PI, Dr. Nathan Doble, to detect biomarkers of various ocular and systemic conditions at the cellular level in living eyes of patients. By taking advantage of high resolution afforded by the research-grade systems in her lab, it is now possible to detect subtle changes in the retina that are too small to detected by conventional clinical systems and examination. The ultimate goals of her research are two-fold: (1) enhance our understanding of underlying disease mechanisms at the cellular level in living patients' eyes and (2) use this imaging technology to test efficacy of treatments and therapies. Currently, her lab is working on correlating structural changes in the inner retina of glaucoma patients with cell function.

NATHAN DOBLE, PhD

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY, OPTICAL IMAGING SYSTEMS

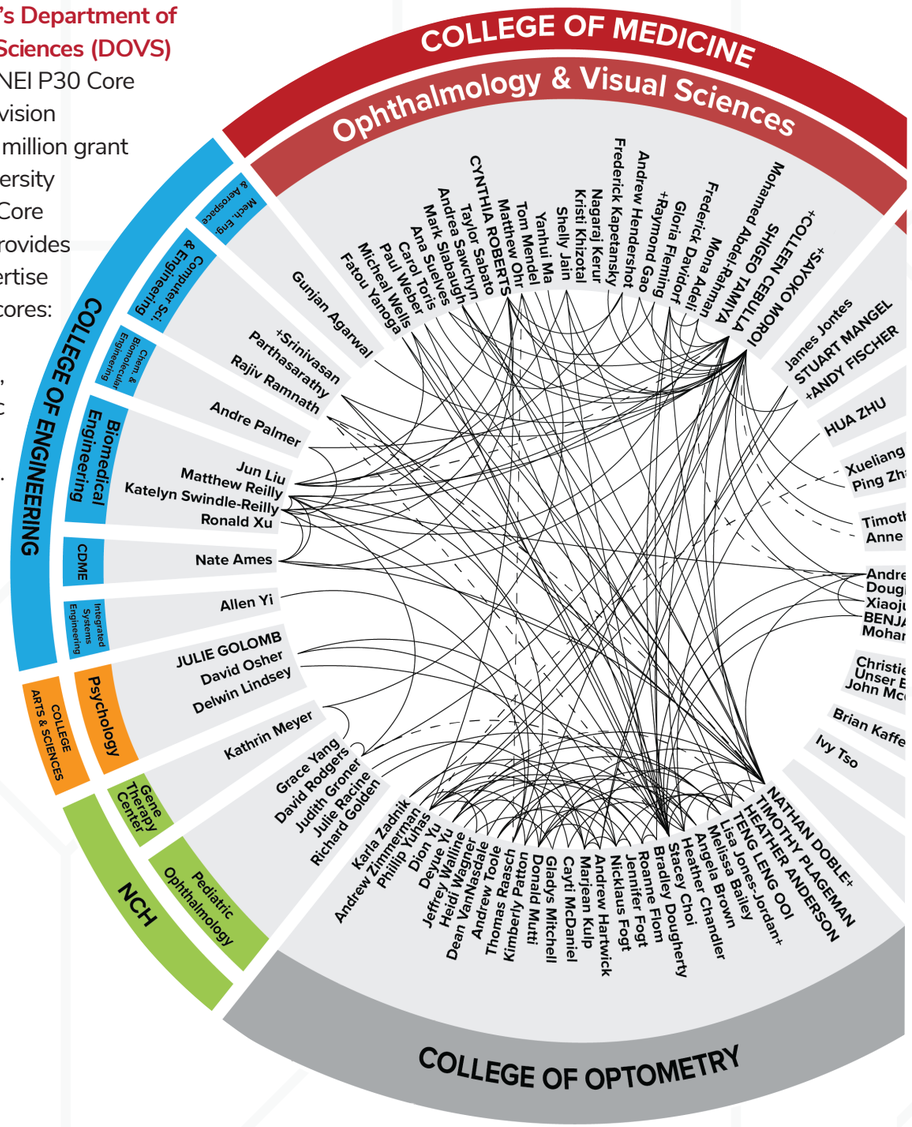
Nathan Doble, PhD

Dr. Doble, courtesy faculty, is an expert in the design, development and construction of high resolution optical imaging systems for in vivo visualization of the human retina at the cellular level. The impact of such systems promise better understanding, earlier diagnosis and improved treatment of a range of retinal pathologies.

Currently, Dr. Doble is developing a high-speed imaging system for the study of individual cone photoreceptor function in both healthy controls and those with age-related macular degeneration. Another project is centered around developing novel imaging strategies for the visualization of retinal blood flow. Dr. Doble was co-founder of Iris AO Inc, a company specializing in the application of adaptive optics (AO) to biomedical imaging and the construction of deformable mirrors using micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS) technology.

P30 NIH CORE GRANT COLLABORATION

The Ohio State University's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (DOVS) was awarded its first NIH/NEI P30 Core Grant in 2022 to enhance vision research. This five year $3 million grant funds The Ohio State University Vision Sciences Research Core Program (OSU-VSRCP), provides shared resources and expertise through three specialized cores: Structural and Functional Assessments, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Genetic Analysis, and Image Analysis and Data Science. Ohio State joins an elite group of institutions across the nation with a core grant, further advancing its impact in vision science. There are approximately 43 core grants across the nation.



CORE GRANT USAGE

35
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

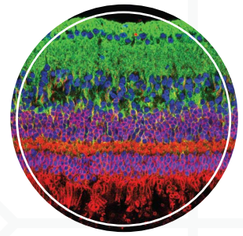
9
OHIO STATE DEPARTMENTS

"There is value in having certain centralized research services, because such expensive and specialized equipment augments research productivity for faculty. While individual R01 grants are very important, their budgets are limited in what instruments can be purchased."

- Dr. Sayoko Moroi

CORE GRANT TO ADVANCE VISION RESEARCH

Core A, Structural & Functional Assessments Core supports eye disease research by providing access to advanced equipment and expertise to study the range from cell to animal models. Equipment like specialized microscope, angiography, fundus photography, and optical coherence tomography are available at both PRC and OSU Wexner Medical Center campus. Led by Dr. Colleen Cebulla and Dr. Andy Fischer, Core A offers technical consulting and resources to researchers, enhancing projects on conditions like macular degeneration, PVR, and glaucoma. This core strengthens ongoing studies and supports new researchers in gathering pilot data for future grant proposals.


Structural & Functional Assessments

Core B, the Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Genetic Analysis Core offers comprehensive support for "-omics" research by providing advanced biostatistics, bioinformatics, and genomic data analysis. Directed by Dr. Raymond Gao and Dr. Lisa Jordan, Core B assists researchers with experimental design, sample size calculations, and data analysis for clinical studies, utilizing specialized software and computational tools. With expertise in statistical genetics and epidemiology, the Core B team enables researchers to handle large datasets and ensures impactful outcomes for new grants and publications, enhancing scholarship across the department.


Biostatistics, Bioinformatics & Genetic Analysis

Core C, the Image Analysis and Data Science Core harnesses artificial intelligence to advance ocular research through expertise in data science, machine learning, and deep learning. Led by Dr. Nathan Doble and Dr. Srinivasan Parthasarathy, this core focuses on analyzing in vivo ocular imaging, vision testing data, and electronic health record (EHR) integration, providing investigators with advanced data science support. With resources like the Translational Data Analytics Institute and Ohio Supercomputer Center, Core C also aims to build a robust data commons for shared vision research, promoting innovative analysis across the scientific community.

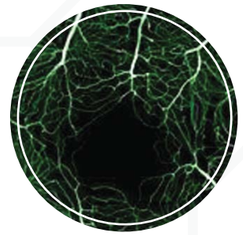


Image Analysis & Science

NIH SITE VISIT


Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD; Andy Fischer, PhD; Raymond Gao, PhD; Lisa Jordan, MS, PhD; Nathan Doble, PhD; Srini Parthasaraty, PhD; and Tony Gover, PhD

The P30 core directors welcomed Dr. Tony Gover, program officer for NEI P30 grants, on September 12, 2024. Dr. Gover shared new translational research opportunities for our vision scientists and collaborators. The P30 core directors informed Dr. Gover on the productivity of each core with data on consultations, equipment use, publications, presentations and grant submissions.

ENDOWMENT CELEBRATION

MARCH 8, 2024

Endowment donors, faculty and alumni gathered to celebrate our endowed chair and professorship holders at the Endowment Celebration dinner at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. Many of the event attendees contribute generously each year to our 48 endowment funds that help our education and research initiatives.

Ohio State University College of Medicine Dean Carol Bradford presented our Endowed chairs and professorship holders with customized medallions. The key-note speaker for the evening was Dr. Chris Ellison who provided a dynamic presentation about the OSU Medical Center and the history of ophthalmology at OSU. Dr. Ellison is the Robert M. Zollinger Professor of Surgery Emeritus at the OSU College of Medicine. He previously served as the chair of the department of surgery, interim dean of the OSU College of Medicine and the president and CEO of the OSU Physicians Practice Plan.

"We are deeply grateful to our donors who make endowed positions possible. They provide security and resources to enable our most accomplished educators and researchers to pursue the next breakthroughs in medicine."

- Dean Bradford

Dean Carol Bradford, MD, MS, FACS

Establishing an endowment gives a gift with both immediate and long-term benefits.
Endowed professor and chair positions provide permanent resources to attract and retain brilliant researchers and clinicians. The Department appreciates our endowment donors whose gifts can last forever. Endowed donations are invested and a portion of the annual income from the investment is used to address immediate needs of the department and the remaining funds are reinvested to ensure indefinite support.

Contact us to create a legacy endowment:
Shane Peterson (602) 885-0222 | Lori Schumacher (614) 366-6294 | Laura Sladoje at (614) 293-8760.

ENDOWMENT HONOREES

Drs. Sayoko Moroi, Colleen Cebulla, Cynthia Roberts, Andrew Hendershot, Matthew Ohr, and Dean Carol Bradford

"Endowed faculty positions create opportunities for our donors to partner with faculty to define critical areas of scientific discovery and bring them to life."

- Dean Bradford

Endowed positions are one of the pinnacle achievements of a faculty member's academic career. It is one of the highest honors an academic institution can bestow upon its faculty. The individuals who hold these endowed positions elevate Ohio State with their exceptional work. The Department celebrated our endowed chair holders and awarded them customized medallions to commemorate their achievement.

Endowed Chair Holders:

Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD - William H. Havener, MD Chair In Ophthalmology Research

Matthew Ohr, MD - Irene D. Hirsch Chair In Ophthalmology

Cynthia Roberts, PhD - Martha G. And Milton Staub Chair For Research In Ophthalmology

The Department will announce two faculty to be awarded chair positions in the near future:
- Carl M. And Grace C. Baldwin Chair In Ophthalmology
- Dr. Paul A. Weber Chair In Ophthalmology

Endowed Professorship Holders:

Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD - Torrence A. Makley Research Professorship

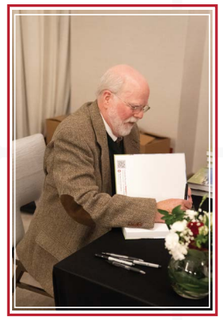
Andrew Hendershot, MD - Thomas F. Mauger & L. Carol Laxson Ophthalmology Professorship

HISTORY BOOK RELEASE

Scan or Visit to order:
go.osu.edu/BookRequest

During the Endowment Celebration DOVS announced the release of the The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences **Historical Perspectives: 1914 - 2023** coffee table book, written by Alan D. Letson, MD.

This beautifully written book captures the department's rich history and significant milestones, preserving a legacy for future generations. Dr. Letson signed copies for faculty, alumni and donors.



Alan D. Letson, MD

GRATEFUL PATIENT ENDOWS DAVIDORF HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP

Frederick Davidorf, MD

This year, a long-time patient of Dr. Frederick Davidorf honored him by making a $1 million donation to create the Frederick H. Davidorf Honorary Professorship. Dr. Davidorf has an excellent reputation as an outstanding clinician, talented vitreoretinal surgeon, researcher, teacher, and dedicated mentor. A professorship in his name is fitting as he has influenced many medical students, residents and retina fellows as a role model for compassionate patient care and education.

Dr. Davidorf is also a pioneer in the diagnosis and management of uveal melanoma and has published over 200 journal articles, authored two textbooks and numerous book chapters. He was also instrumental in establishing the Ocular Melanoma Research Group which is a multidisciplinary team focused on improving the prognosis for patients with uveal melanoma.

Dr. Davidorf announced his retirement from clinical care in August 2024, and he continues research. The Frederick H. Davidorf Honorary Professorship endowment will support a physician, clinician, or vision scientist who focuses on research and clinical advances to improve sight.

PATTI BLOW RESEARCH FUND SUPPORTS CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH

The department is grateful to Warner and Patti Blow for creating the Patti Blow Research Fund in Ophthalmology. Over the last 25 years, Warner and his family have contributed millions to maintain a successful research program led by Frederick Davidorf, MD; Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, MD, PhD; and Colleen Cebulla, MD, PhD. Building on studies about malignant melanoma of the eye, vision researchers discovered that a key cancer pre-disposition gene, called *BAP1*, caused multiple inherited cancers. These cancers include malignant melanoma of the eye, lung cancer, kidney cancer, melanoma of the skin, and brain cancer.

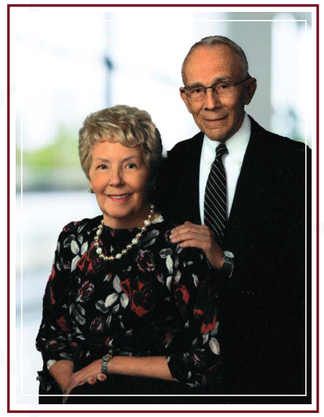
The Blow Family's continued partnership has established the OSU Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences as a premier center for eye cancer genetics and Dr. Abdel-Rahman as an international expert on BAP1. In April 2023, the Department hosted the inaugural *BAP1* Tumor Predisposition Syndrome International Symposium.

Dr. Moroi, Warner Blow, and Tracy Blow Pospeck

Expert clinicians and scientists from around the world shared knowledge about diagnosis, genetics, and treatments of cancers caused by *BAP1* gene variants. Researchers continue their focus to develop sensitive screening for earlier diagnosis to improve outcomes; educate patients at risk for ocular melanoma and the related *BAP1* cancers; and innovate new treatments for cures.

ALUMNI CHARLES LEONE, MD DONATES $1M

ELLEN W. LEONE ENDOWED FUND FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING



Charles & Ellen Leone

Dr. Leone recently established the Ellen W. Leone Endowed Fund for Education & Training to create a lasting memorial at Ohio State to honor his wife. Dr. Leone completed his residency training under Dr. William Havener from 1963-1966. He then completed two fellowships and a Heed Fellowship at Manhattan Eye & Ear. After moving to San Antonio, Texas, he opened an oculoplastic practice where he remained until his retirement in 1997.

Chuck and Ellen raised four sons and have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They celebrated 64 years of marriage before she passed away in 2022. The fund supports learners including residents, fellows and medical students by providing equipment, supplies and programmatic needs of the Surgery and Clinical Learning Center (SCLC).

"I enjoy giving back because of the fondness and the gratitude I have for the wonderful years at OSU that set me on the path to success. I created this fund to honor Ellen's lifelong partnership and support for my professional career and the wonderful life we created together."

– Dr. Charles Leone

LEONE LECTURESHIP

Dr. Charles Leone created the Leone Lectureship which supports an Oculoplastics speaker during the annual Postgraduate Symposium held in March. The inaugural lecture was in 2023 featuring Keith Carter, MD, FACS, Chairman of ophthalmology at the University of Iowa. The 2025 speaker will be Christopher Chambers, MD, OSU College of Medicine alumni, who is an associate professor and associate residency program director for Ophthalmology at the University of Washington. He specializes in oculoplastics and cosmetic surgery.

Keith Carter, MD, FACS, inaugural Leone lecturer

1966 CLASS TRIBUTE
Written by Dr. Charles Leone

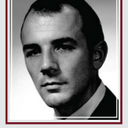
For the class of 1966
The time to leave draws near.
Though sadness fills our
every heart
We're here to wish you cheer.

Though many times
you've wondered
"What do our efforts yield?"
You may have even
thought to say
We try another field.

You taught us grafts and
slick techniques
And all about the eye.
To miss a hole or goof a slide
We'd much prefer to die.

In future years when
we are asked
What lesion is this here?
We'll recall our past at OSU
And answer without fear.

So at this time of merriment
We offer our good will,
And wish the best of everything
to Jim, Dick, Tod and Bill.



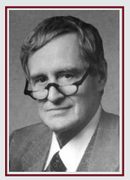
CHARLES R.
LEONE JR., MD

MENTORS

JIM
ANDREW, MD

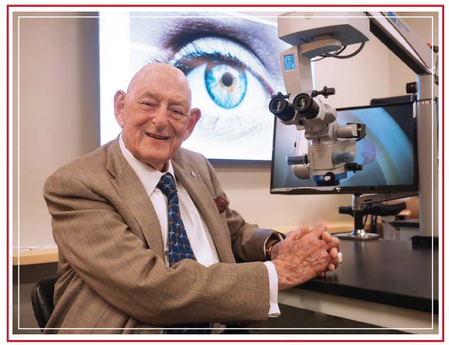
DICK
KEATES, MD

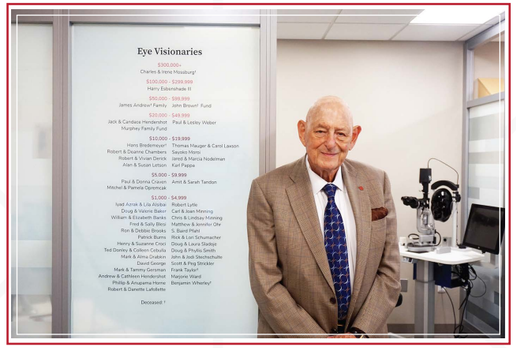
TOD
MAKLEY, MD



BILL
HAVENER, MD

JARED NODELMAN PAYS IT FORWARD





Jared Nodelman in the SCLC

Jared Nodelman came to the Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences for cataract surgery with **Dr. Andrew Hendershot** and is also a patient of **Dr. Sruti Akella**. He was grateful for his expert care and was moved to find a way to pay forward. He has made a profound impact on the department through his donation for the Ophthalmology Surgery and Clinical Learning Center (SCLC). His gift was the first donation and jump started fulfillment of Residency Program Director Andrew Hendershot MD's vision for a state-of-the-art facility equipped with simulators, wet lab stations, and cutting-edge tools for training medical students, residents, and fellows. He believes the center will play a crucial role in training future ophthalmologists, ultimately benefiting tens of thousands of patients. Jared's philanthropic philosophy reflects his deep sense of gratitude, as he sees giving back as a way to inspire future generations.

"I am delighted, honored and humbled that I was able to be the initial donor for the learning center." - Jared Nodelman

Jared exemplifies the impact of community support in elevating education and patient care. The center's reach will be far and wide, strengthen training, enhance patient care, and ensure future physicians' preparation to make a difference. His generosity extends across Ohio State's medical disciplines, with additional support given to the Colleges of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Dentistry.

Scan for video: go.osu.edu/Nodelman

WELCOME SHANE PETERSON

Shane Peterson, CFRE

The department recently welcomed Shane Peterson to the ophthalmology team. Shane and his family moved to Columbus from Los Angeles in 2017. He is the senior director of development for The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Health Sciences Colleges Advancement.

"I could not imagine doing anything else for a living and feel blessed to have the opportunity to help our patients invest in the incredible work that is being done by our faculty and staff. " - Shane Peterson

RICHARD MURPHEY GIVES BACK

Richard Murphey

"I believe treatments I received didn't exist several years ago and I am grateful for all the efforts to make these advancements happen. I think it's important that we all pull together to support improvements in eye care."
- Richard Murphey

Richard Murphey III, is a Columbus native and successful business owner of The Flower Galaxy. Richard's connection to the department is deeply rooted in his family legacy. His late father was a long time patient who supported the Ophthalmology Education Research Fund, a contribution that reflects the Murphey family's dedication to medical education and patient care advancements. His personal journey with the department began with an urgent need for eye care after a diagnosis led him to **Dr. Amit Tandon** and **Dr. Mona Adeli** who provided successful treatments, including cataract surgery.

Inspired by his father's example, Richard wanted to show his gratitude and support the department's efforts, particularly in enhancing patient outcomes and training future medical professionals. For Richard, his contributions are an important way of giving back to a community and department that have provided him with the best possible care. Reflecting on his philanthropic philosophy, Richard emphasizes the importance of community involvement. With the department seeing over 100,000 patients annually, Richard recognizes the essential role of community support in maintaining top-quality care and cutting-edge research.

Scan for video: go.osu.edu/Murphey

$1 MILLION PLANNED GIFT

MEDICAL STUDENT ENRICHMENT YEAR AWARD

Paul Weber, MD

The Department announced a planned gift from a long-time patient of Paul Weber, MD. A generous donor and her late husband were passionate about educational opportunities for future ophthalmologists, especially those wanting to pursue glaucoma research.

In 2023, she pledged a $1 million educational award to enable an aspiring ophthalmologist the opportunity to enrich their research portfolio. The award is for a medical student between their third and fourth years of medical school or a post-medical school graduate (pre-residency student), or a post-residency graduate (pre-fellowship) who has shown an interest in clinical glaucoma care.

"Her generosity to support physicians in training is admirable, extremely important and invaluable to the department and university."

- Dr. Paul Weber

MAKE A DECISION TODAY TO CREATE A BETTER TOMORROW

Will you partner with us to create a better tomorrow by making a plan to support the Havener Eye Institute today? You can direct your gift to a specific fund or to education, clinical programs, or cutting edge research. Your gift will help prepare the next generation of ophthalmologists and create discoveries that change the face of medicine.

Scan to make a gift
go.osu.edu/PlannedGift

If you are interested in making a planned gift, please contact our department liaisons:
Shane Peterson (602) 885-0222 | Lori Schumacher (614) 366-6294 | Laura Sladoje (614) 293-8760

MOSES SCHOLARSHIP

SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Jacob Moses, MD

The Dr. Jacob Moses and Florence Moses Memorial Endowed Fund was established in 2024 with a gift made in their memory from their son, James L. Moses, MD, a local ophthalmologist. Income from this fund will support education, research, and improvements in clinical care in the department.

Dr. Jacob Moses joined the faculty of the department of ophthalmology in 1946, holding various positions from instructor to clinical professor. During his tenure, he contributed greatly to the growth of the department during its early years. He was instrumental in educating and training medical students and residents. Dr. Moses was a devoted husband to his wife of 63 years, Florence E. Moses, and father to their six children.

KRISHAN AND VICKY JOSHI ENDOWED FUND

GRATEFUL PATIENT OF MARK SLABAUGH, MD

Krishan Joshi came to Ohio State from India as an engineering student in 1958. Krishan is forever grateful to Ohio State for his education and life perspective. His father had glaucoma, which he passed on to his children. This led Krishan to Mark Slabaugh, MD at Ohio State's Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

"I have been a patient of Dr. Slabaugh and his staff for many years. Their excellent care and kindness has stabilized my vision. It's our privilege and honor to support their work and research which will continue to help many patients."

- Krishan Joshi

Mark Slabaugh, MD

Grateful for the care provided by Dr. Slabaugh, he and his wife, Vicky created The Krishan and Vicky Joshi Endowed Eye Research Fund in 2024. This fund supports faculty, residents and medical students in the Department who are developing their research programs to discover innovative treatments and cures for eye diseases.

"I am honored that the Joshi family would support our department. They understand the impact that their generous gift will make in our research and educational mission and this will serve an important role far into the future."

- Dr. Mark Slabaugh

RICHARD AND JOYCE MILLER ENDOWED FUND

GRATEFUL PATIENT OF MATTHEW OHR, MD

Dick Miller began his eye care with Dr. Alan Letson in 1981. Through the years, Dr. Letson discussed the financial needs for ophthalmology research. When Dr. Letson retired, Dick's care transitioned to the hands of Dr. Matthew Ohr who continued the conversation about retina research. Dick and his wife, Joyce, recently endowed a fund to support macular degeneration research. They established the Richard C. and Joyce L. Miller Endowment Fund for Macular Degeneration & Retina Research.

"My doctors have provided truly amazing eye care over 43 years. Since macular degeneration runs in our family, it prompted us to support Dr. Ohr's research."

-Dick and Joyce Miller

They look forward to the research outcomes that their funds will provide and to create a brighter future for patients with dry macular degeneration.

Dick & Joyce Miller, Dr. Matthew Ohr

"I am very grateful for the generous contribution from the Millers and their support of our macular degeneration research."

- Dr. Matthew Ohr

ALUMNUS BOB WANG, MD GIVING BACK

Robert Wang, MD

Dr. Wang is a Buckeye through and through having completed his undergraduate, medical school and residency at Ohio State. As an undergraduate, he earned the coveted Evans Scholarship which provided him with full tuition and housing for four years and was a motivation for giving back. His four year scholarship made a difference in his life and inspired him to want to give other students a chance to attend college. So, in 2020, Dr. Wang created the George and Shirley Wang Fund for Student Excellence in Medicine which provides a scholarship each year for a medical student who is hoping to pursue a career in ophthalmology.

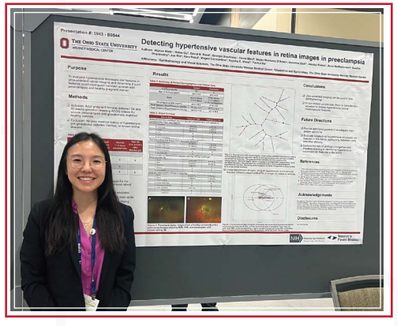
Dr. Wang lives in Dallas and practices at Texas Retina Associates, where he provides a full range of vitreoretinal care and sub-specializes in the treatment of uveitis.

"I feel lucky to have gone to Ohio State, and I'm at a point in my life where I feel it is nice to give back. I bleed scarlet and grey!"

- Dr. Robert Wang

Dr. Wang on Mount Everest (right)

WANG SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Alyson Kishi with ARVO poster

The George and Shirley Wang Endowed Fund for Student Excellence in Medicine was established in 2020 by Dr. Wang to honor his parents. The annual award provides a scholarship to a student enrolled in the College of Medicine who shows interest in pursuing a medical career in ophthalmology. The Department recently announced Alyson Kishi as the 2024-2025 academic year recipient. Alyson is pursuing her medical degree at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. She presented a poster titled: "Detecting hypertensive vascular features in retinal images in preeclampsia" at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting in Seattle, WA.

RETINA FORUM GUEST LECTURER

Dr. Wang presenting

Matthew Ohr, MD, Bob Wang, MD
Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

Alumnus, Dr. Robert Wang was the invited guest lecturer for the 2024 Retina Case Forum held August 16th at the Energy Advancement and Innovation Center on Ohio State University's west campus.

The Annual Retina Case Forum is a case-based forum designed for retina physicians and ophthalmologists. The forum is an open forum discussion of exceptional and challenging examples in the management of complex ocular disease. The course director is Dr. Matthew Ohr, Retina Division Director for the OSU Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

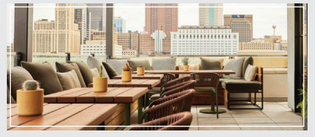
8th Annual
Retina Case Forum
Friday, August 15, 2025
8am - 5pm

Energy Advancement & Innovation Center
2281 Kenny Rd
Columbus, OH 43210

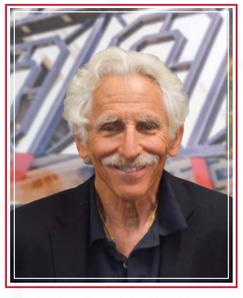
SAVE THE DATE

Invited Lecturer
Rishi Singh, MD
Vitreoretinal Surgeon
Cleveland Clinic Florida
VP & Chief Medical Officer
Martin Health North & South Hospitals

Post Forum Gathering
Brass Eye Rooftop | The Junto | 5pm
77 Belle Street Columbus, OH 43215



DAVIDOFF ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS RETINA FORUM

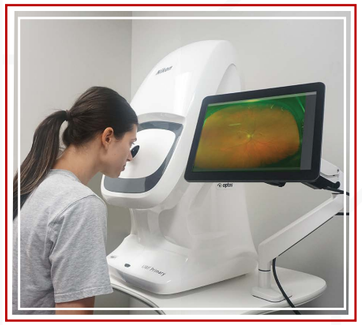


Elliot Davidoff, MD

Dr. Davidoff is a long-time supporter of the OSU Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. He began participating in the department in the 1970's. In 2023, he pledged $100,000 to establish the Elliot and Marjorie Davidoff Lectureship Fund in Ophthalmology. The annual distribution from this fund will support a lectureship at the annual Retina Case Forum. This forum is designed to provide ophthalmologists with updates on advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of retinal diseases.

TELEOPHTHALMOLOGY EXPANSION

Diabetic Retinopathy is the leading cause of preventable blindness. Nearly 1 in 8 adults in Ohio have diabetes of which 3.3 million adults have diabetes or prediabetes. Early detection, timely treatment, and appropriate follow-up care can reduce a person's risk for severe vision loss from diabetic eye disease by 95 percent. Matthew Ohr, MD, a retina physician, and his team are growing a successful teleophthalmology program to screen patients in primary care offices for diabetic retinopathy.



Early detection screening

According to Dr. Ohr, the program is already making a big impact. A significant portion of patients in the participating offices weren't getting their annual diabetic retinopathy exams. Since the program's introduction, 96 percent of patients with diabetes in these offices are successfully imaged. Building on the success of the primary care office program, Ohr's team will expand teleophthalmology to additional sites, starting with the OSU-Free Clinics.

Next steps will include building a retina image biorepository to develop new healthcare algorithms with the ultimate goal to improve multi-system patient outcomes in the future. The aim is to create strategic community partnerships with additional sites and provide a positive impact for those served.

ADVANCING EYE HEALTH

In 2024, the Department engaged in community events including the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) VisionWalk and local health fairs to promote awarness of retinal dystrophies and diabetic ocular health education.

These events focus on early disease detection, education, and equitable access to care. The Department is committed to improving access for patients facing socioeconomic challenges, promoting eye wellness and supporting OSU's broader mission of community health.

Dr. Sayoko Moroi, Chrissie Sediqe, Dr. Carla Ford, Javonte McDonald Director of the Healthy Community Center.

Drs. Evans, Ford, Suelves

This aligns with a commitment to improve healthcare equity, advance ophthalmology inclusivity, and enhance patient education on eye health and diabetes. The Department works with local community groups on program execution and necessary resources, and aspires to set a benchmark in accessible, impactful eye care.

MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GRATEFUL FOR SARAH SLACK FUNDING

The Department celebrates 16 years of an impactful partnership with the Sarah Slack Research Fund through the Muskingum County Community Foundation (MCCF). Their generous donations have enabled researchers to make new discoveries and generate critical pilot data for new grant proposals. Their continued partnership will translate from the bench to benefiting patients and ophthalmic and cancer communities.

Nagaraj Kerur, DVM, PhD; Brian Wagner, CEO MCCF Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; Alan Letson, MD; and Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD

CRYOSTAT

TISSUE PROCESSING MACHINE

In 2023, the donation from MCCF was used to purchase a cryostat. Both Nagaraj Kerur, DVM, PhD and Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD teams use the cryostat for detailed tissue analysis of the retina and other eye structures. This instrument allows them to examine the tissues at cellular levels in order to develop new treatments for diseases and understand disease pathogenesis.

SCIENTISTS APPRECIATE RESEARCH GRANTS

RETINA AND OPTIC NERVE IMAGER

OcuMet Beacon

In 2024, a donation from the Sarah Slack fund at MCCF coupled with a grant awarded by the Ann Ellis Fund at the Columbus Foundation was used to purchase an OcuMet Beacon retina and optic nerve imager. Not yet approved by the FDA, this is a research device that measures the fluorescence of stressed proteins that are linked with disease related to cells in the retina and optic nerve at the back of the eye. Prior studies showed that this instrument can detect oxidative stress in mitochondria occurring in certain diseases. Signals are detected in persons with idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH), open angle glaucoma (OAG), diabetic eye disease, and macular degeneration.

On a larger scale, there are gaps in knowledge about how several different factors contribute to the development of these diseases. In a pilot study enrolling patients with IIH or OAG, the device will be used to supplement an innovative holistic approach that will fill in some of these knowledge gaps on disease pathogenesis.

SURGERY AND CLINICAL LEARNING CENTER GRAND OPENING | MAY 15, 2024

The Surgery and Clinical Learning Center (SCLC) has put the residency program at the forefront of technology for progressive ophthalmic learning. The Department joins an elite group of residency programs with a modern learning ecosystem designed to support surgical and clinical training excellence.

The journey toward establishing the SCLC has been a remarkable endeavor. Every step of the way, from conceptualization to execution, has been fueled by the support and generosity of donors and the unwavering enthusiasm and leadership of Dr. Andrew Hendershot, the residency program director.

The SCLC will continue to be a crucial component of our recruitment efforts to attract the brightest trainees, fellows and faculty from across the country. In celebration of this milestone, generous SCLC donors, supporters and learners were invited to the grand opening of the learning center.

Dr. Moroi with Residents

Alumni and donors at the grand opening

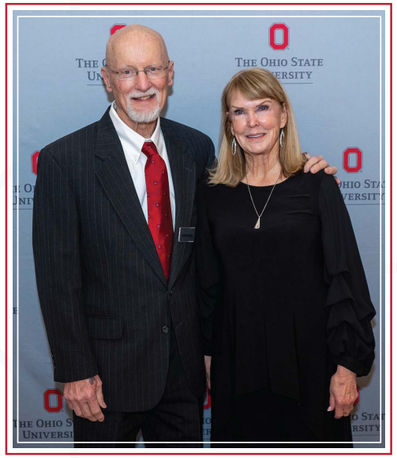
HONORING EYE VISIONARIES

Inside the Surgery & Clinical Learning Center, the valued contributors are listed on a glass recognition wall with space to honor future donors. Your donation will help complete and maintain the best-in-class surgery and learning center and provide:

- Simulator updates and software licensing.
- Supplies of model eyes, wet lab consumable supplies, and surgical instruments.
- Facilities maintenance for this expensive teaching equipment.

Scan or Visit for more info:
go.osu.edu/EyeVisionary

RESIDENTS APPRECIATE MODEL EYE DONATION



Drs. Jack and Candace Hendershot

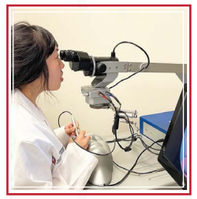
Dr. Jack Hendershot & Dr. Candace Hendershot made a generous $50,000 donation to be used to purchase the initial starter kit of wet lab supplies and model eyes for 18 current residents and 6 interns.

Their donation will also be used to purchase additional supplies and model eye kits for the 2025 residents. The residents appreciate the generosity of the donors recognized as Eye Visionaries in the SCLC.

Residents with model eye starter kits

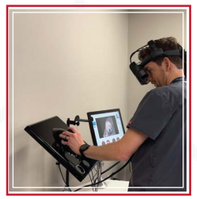
A LOOK INSIDE THE SCLC

EDUCATIONAL SIMULATORS



SURGICAL SIMULATOR

The 3-D virtual reality surgery simulator offers immersive eye surgery fundamentals training, covering cataract and posterior segment procedures with realistic instruments and tissue behavior simulation.



INDIRECT OPHTHALMOSCOPE SIMULATOR

The simulator mimics all the features and challenges of diagnosing with a real indirect ophthalmoscope. Learners practice reading an inverted retina image with a patient model head, two lenses, and a head-mounted display.

SLIT LAMP SIMULATOR

The highly realistic simulation of intraocular structures in real-time allows learners to practice both the complex handling of the slit lamp and recognition of relevant clinical conditions and diseases.

THREE WET LAB STATIONS

The wet lab stations provide risk-free surgical practice, with realistic training and virtual procedure recording through high-resolution microscopes.

ENHANCING EDUCATION

FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

The department offers opportunities for medical students to enhance their education and research experience. First-year students receive foundational knowledge through lectures and practical sessions focusing on the eye and visual system. This comprehensive approach ensures that students develop a strong knowledge and skills base in the intricacies of ophthalmology from the outset.

Medical Student

SPECIALIZED COURSES FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS

For third and fourth-year students, specialized courses such as the Ophthalmology Selective, Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Pediatric Ophthalmology, and Advanced Retina Elective are available, allowing them to delve deeper into specific areas of interest. Additionally, students can engage in research projects, furthering their involvement in this dynamic field and contributing to advancements in ophthalmic care.

Dr. Wells

OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

To further support the education of aspiring ophthalmic professionals, The Department hosts a 12-week ophthalmic assistant training program led by Dr. Shelly Jain. This program aims to equip motivated individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to begin a career as an ophthalmic technician. While no prior medical experience is necessary, applicants should ideally have a science background and strong interpersonal skills. Successful participants will be prepared to apply for job opportunities.

Scan for tech training
go.osu.edu/TechTraining

Tech Training

SUMMER LEARNING AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

An additional highlight of the department's educational offerings is the Ophthalmology Summer Learning and Enrichment through Research (OSLER) program, held from May to August and hosted by Dr. Moroi. OSLER features an average of seven engaging events designed to enhance participants' understanding of ophthalmology research. These events include a Journal Club, workshops on how to write a paper and how to read a journal article, discussions on topics such as "Waking Up Blind," and student presentations. OSLER is open to students conducting summer research or seeking to become more involved in the research initiatives within the department, providing an excellent opportunity for networking and skills development.

Dr. Varma

FOR MORE DETAILS ON EDUCATION PROGRAMS, VISIT EYE.OSU.EDU

GRADUATES

CLASS OF 2024 RESIDENTS & FELLOWS

Nishanth Uli, MD, MBA; Ryan Oliver, MD; Celestine Gregerson, MD; Cameron Bruner, MD; Mitchell Nash, MD; Cameron Yang, MD

Surgical Retina

Dr. Yanoga, Director
& Reese Bergstrom, DO

Glaucoma Fellow

Dr. Jain, Director
& Peter Chen, MD

Surgical Retina

Dr. Yanoga, Director
& Imran Khatri, MD

Optometry

Dr. Mundy, Director
& Matthew McGee, OD

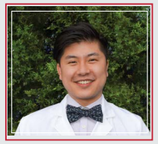
RESEARCH DAY WINNERS

44TH ANNUAL OPHTHALMOLOGY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

1ST PLACE TIE

Dr. Cameron Bruner

"Comparison of axial and tangential maps in the location of the keratoconic cone"



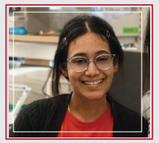
Dr. Cam Yang

"The LEDGH Score: A Novel Grading System to Evaluate the Anatomic Success of Orbital Blowout Fracture Repair"

3RD PLACE

Dr. Bivek Wagle

GRADUATE RESEARCH WINNER



Vino Jayananthan

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Dr. Celestine Gregerson

Dr. Raj Vadhul

FELLOWSHIP MATCH 2025

Aaron Warning, MD
Nationwide Children's, Pediatrics
Benjamin Park, MD
Baylor, Cornea & Anterior Segment
Meghana Kalavar, MD
UCLA , Surgical Retina
Derrick Wang, MD
USC, Glaucoma
Raj Vadhu, MD
Boston Children's, Pediatrics
Bivek Wagle, MD
Nebraska, Surgical Retina

WELCOME BACK ALUMNI

The Eye Center of Columbus Foundation and The Ohio State University Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences co-host the Annual Alumni & Friends Fall Vision Forum. The all-day CME course provides the latest information on ophthalmic procedures, research, and best practices.

2024 FALL VISION FORUM

The 2024 Fall Vision Forum was held October 4th and featured four outstanding speakers including alumni, Anupama Horne, MD (2009) from Duke University Medical Center and Sarah Hilkert Rodriguez, MD, MPH (2016) from University of Chicago. Other distinguished speakers were College of Medicine Alumni, Daniel Miller, MD, PhD from Cincinnati Eye Institute; and friend Carla Siegfried, MD from Washington University.

Drs. Sayoko Moroi, Sarah Hilkert Rodriquez, Dan Miller, Anupama Horne, Carla Siegfried, and Kenn Cahill

2024 Forum held at Energy Advancement Innovation Center located at corner of Kenny Road and Lane Avenue.

2023 FALL VISION FORUM

The Inaugural Alumni & Friends Fall Vision Forum CME event was held on Friday October 6, 2023. The event featured four speakers including two OSU College of Medicine Alumni, Andrew Stacey, MD from University of Washington and Helen Wu, MD from Tufts Medical Center. Other featured speakers were Leon Herndon, MD from Duke University Medical Center and Erin Shriver, MD from University of Iowa.

Drs. Sayoko Moroi, Leon Herndon, Erin Shriver, Helen Wu, Andrew Stacey, and Kenn Cahill

2023 Forum held at Eye Center of Columbus

ALUMNI & FRIENDS TAILGATE

Join us on **October 4, 2025** for an OSU alumni and friends tailgate. This event is held the day following the CME Fall Forum event held on **October 3rd**. The tailgate brings OSU alumni and friends together for a fun Saturday at an Ohio State Buckeyes football game. Prior to the game, attendees are treated to a pregame tailgate featuring delicious food, drinks, music and a visit from Brutus and the OSU cheerleaders.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS FALL VISION FORUM

2025 CME event will be held at the Eye Center on OCTOBER 3

Email **eye@osumc.edu** if interested in attending.

Course Co-Directors: Kenneth Cahill, MD & Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD

POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

2024 Speakers Drs. Sruti Akella, Mark Slabaugh, Nelli Galoyan, Tara McGehee, Tamara Fountain, Daniel Moore, Thuy Doan, Richard Rosen

This annual course is designed for the ophthalmologist who would like to review comprehensive ophthalmic problems and learn about significant advancements in patient care. Along with covering relevant ophthalmic topics, each speaker gives lectures that emphasize changes in a practice pattern, surgical technique or understanding of a disease process that is meaningful to them.

JOIN US MARCH 7-8 2025

Scan for event info go.osu.edu/MarchMeeting

Drs. Tandon, Weber, Letson and Hendershot at the symposium.

LUBOW LECTURESHIP

INAUGURAL SPEAKER PRESENTING IN 2025, VALERIE BIOUSSE, MD

Dr. Martin Lubow

The Dr. Martin Lubow Lectureship Fund was created by Don and Abby Robinson to honor Dr. Martin Lubow. He was one of the first neuro-ophthalmologist fellows in the country. He completed his fellowship under Dr. William Hoyt at the University of California, San Francisco. At that time, there were only three neuro-ophthalmologists in the country: Boston's Dr. Cogan, Baltimore's Dr. Walsh, and San Francisco's Dr. Hoyt. These three men are considered the three founding fathers of neuro-ophthalmology.

When the first neuro-ophthalmology fellowship class graduated, they were dispersed throughout the country to teach this new sub-specialty. Dr. Lubow was recruited to Ohio State in part because Dr. George Paulson, founding chairman of the OSU department of neurology, recognized the advantage of having a neuro-ophthalmologist at OSU. After 30 years of teaching and clinical practice, Dr. Lubow retired. He passed away in 2015.

MOSES LECTURESHIP

ALUMNAE ELAINE BINKLEY, MD

Mark Slabaugh, MD; Elaine Binkley, MD; Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; James Moses, MD

The Jacob Moses, MD Lectureship Fund was created by Dr. James Moses, a local ophthalmologist, to honor and commemorate the contributions and accomplishments of his father, Dr. Jacob Moses.

This fund supports an annual lectureship series presented to ophthalmologists, learners, researchers, and clinicians. The Moses Lecture provides continuing medical education (CME) to inform providers of new and current treatments, new technologies for diagnosis and progression, and surgical approaches.

Alumnae Elaine Binkley, MD was the featured speaker in 2024. Next year, the Moses Lectureship will be a featured lecture during the 2025 Postgraduate Symposium.

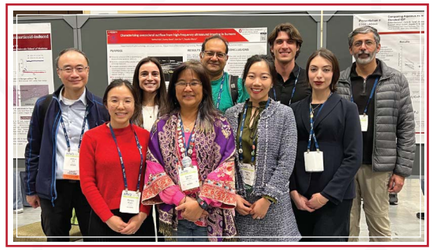
NATIONAL MEETINGS

ARVO SEATTLE

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting is considered to be the largest gathering of eye and vision researchers in the world with over 11,000 attendees from 75 countries. Each year, the Department holds a reception and sends multiple researchers and physicians to present their newest research innovations and collaborate with other researchers.

Reception attendees

Scan for ARVO presentations go.osu.edu/ARVO2024



Dr. Moroi with some of the presentors

WIO SAN DIEGO

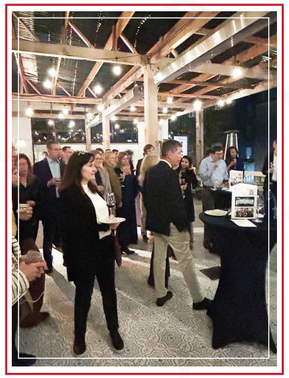
Physicians, Residents and Fellows represented the Department at the 2024 Women in Ophthalmology Symposium (WIO). This organization focuses on supporting and advancing women in the field of ophthalmology through mentorship, networking, and advocacy. WIO hosts events and offers resources to promote professional growth. Drs. Maddie Beckman Weilin Chan, Lucie Moore, Emily Xu presented research posters.

Dr. Moroi with alumni & residents

Drs. Jain & Beckman

AAO CHICAGO

The department holds its annual alumni reception during the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) conference. The alumni reception allows faculty, alumni, residents, fellows, and medical students to network and reconnect. The AAO meeting allows clinicians to learn about the cutting-edge research in ophthalmology so patients can be provided the very latest in diagnosis, prevention and treatment.



Reception attendees

Resident Emily Xu, MD presentation

OPHTHALMOLOGY IN UKRAINE

RAYMOND CHO, MD

Dr. Cho, an oculoplastic surgeon specializing in orbital reconstruction, recently participated in a humanitarian surgery trip to Ukraine organized by the Face the Future Foundation. The team included members from the United States and Canada.

Selected for his expertise in complex facial trauma, Dr. Cho was instrumental in providing critical reconstructive surgeries for 33 soldiers and civilians affected by conflict. Beyond surgeries, Dr. Cho and his team shared their knowledge with Ukrainian healthcare professionals, holding training sessions and collaborating closely to enhance surgical and nursing skills locally.

Dr. Cho's trips to Ukraine in 2023 and 2024 responded to the urgent need for specialized reconstructive surgery in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine. Many soldiers and civilians in Ukraine have suffered severe facial injuries, and the expertise of the Face the Future team is crucial in providing the best possible care to these individuals.

The surgeries were conducted in Ivano-Frankivsk, in western Ukraine. To prepare for these missions, the medical team, including Dr. Cho, conducted extensive video calls to review patient histories, photographs and CT scans. This preview prepares the team to provide effective care for the patients.

Dr. Cho with a thankful patient

"My most rewarding experience has been restoring vision to patients in Ukraine" - Dr. Raymond Cho

Dr. Cho emphasizes the impact it had on the patients, the local medical community, and the international surgical team. This effort was made possible with the support of Face the Future Canada, Razom for Ukraine, Patients of Ukraine, Still Strong Ukraine, and Materialize NV. This team embodies the dedication and compassion needed to bring hope and healing to those affected by conflict.

Face The Future Surgical Team

OPHTHALMOLOGY IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CHRISTINE MARTINEZ, MD

Dr. Martinez with support staff

Holding two large duffel bags full of surgical supplies, **Dr. Martinez** stepped onto a plane headed to the Dominican Republic. She was met by Dr. Carlos Gomez, a physician with more than 30 years' experience, who leads Cataract and Anterior Segment Surgery at Elías Santana Hospital in Santo Domingo.

Supplies were donated by Surgical Eye Expeditions (SEE) International and Alcon. Surgery was performed using a technique called manual small-incision cataract surgery (MSICS), commonly employed in resource-limited settings because it does not require the expensive machine normally used in cataract surgery to emulsify the eye's internal lens using an ultrasonic probe and aspiration.

After Dr. Martinez observed Dr. Gomez perform several surgeries, she began to participate by creating scleral tunnel incisions on subsequent cases. She ultimately performed about half of the MSICS surgeries independently. Together they performed 32 cataract surgeries in 2 days.

"We traveled two hours from the capital to a small mountain town called Cotui. My husband grew up in a different rural town about 30 minutes away and it was an incredible learning experience that also directly benefited the local community."

- Dr. Christine Martinez

She looks forward to using her skills and experience to help restore vision loss from cataracts and educate local providers in global communities in the future.

Dr. Martinez with surgical team

OPHTHALMOLOGY IN HONDURAS

AMIT TANDON, MD

Since joining The Ohio State University, **Dr. Tandon** has participated in surgery trips to Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, and most recently, Honduras. These trips involve other dedicated physicians and highlight the profound impact of global outreach.

On the latest mission to Honduras, Dr. Tandon and a team of 10-12 clinicians performed 35 cataract surgeries and conducted 98 eye exams over five days.

Dr. Tandon and daughter Elise

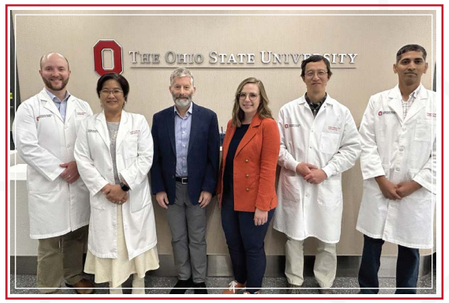
Drs. Tandon, Horne and Surgical Team

The cataract patients were visually impaired and the surgeries restored their vision.

These missions are possible thanks to generous supporters. Collaborations with colleagues, including Drs. Kristen Burwick, Mitul Vakharia, and Anupama Horne, further enrich these efforts. Dr. Tandon hopes to make Honduras a regular location for life-changing work to restore sight and improve lives.

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS

SPEAKER SERIES



Thomas Mendel, MD, PhD; Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; Ben Shaberman, MS; Andrea Harper EdD; Shigeo Tamiya, PhD; Nagaraj Kerur, DVM, PhD

The OSU Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences and Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) co-hosted the Columbus Chapter Speaker Series on November 15th, 2023 at the Pelotonia Research Center (PRC). More than fifty guests, including patients with inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) were in attendance.

The presentations highlighted promising clinical advancements in gene therapy for retinal dystrophies and retina research being conducted at OSU. Keynote speakers were Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD; Thomas Mendel MD, PhD; and Nagaraj Kerur, DVM, PhD.

VISIONWALK

Dr. Moroi and Dr. Mendel spoke at the FFB sponsored VisionWalk, and shared research efforts to cure inherited retinal diseases (IRDs). The Department surpassed a fundraising goal of $6,500. The event was successful thanks to the incredible support of the community.

The VisionWalk donors make a significant impact on patients and families with IRD's. This community event makes a difference in the lives of patients that are visually impaired.

VisionWalk Eye Team

BUCKEYE CLINIC

15 YEARS OF CARE

Since opening in 2010, the BuckEYE clinic has provided vital eye care to Franklin County residents, helping those who lack health insurance. Dr. Mona Adeli and patient access coordinator, Deanna Manning, lead a dedicated team of 25-30 volunteers.

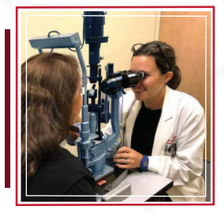
The BuckEYE clinic is held bi-monthly after work hours, serving the community with compassion and care and providing eye exams, prescription glasses, transportation assistance, interpreter services and prescription support to ensure access to everyone needing eye care.

Dr. Oostra

Dr. Kuennen

Dr. Yanoga

Dr. Livshitz



Dr. Mihalik

Scan for 2025 Events
go.osu.edu/2025Events

OPHTHALMOLOGY

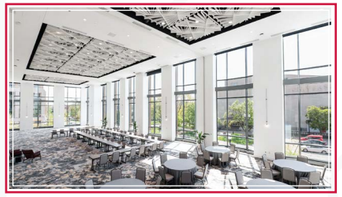
EVENT SCHEDULE 2025

MARCH 7-8

SONESTA DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

66TH ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

MAY 2



VITRIA ON THE SQUARE

BAP1 SYMPOSIUM

MAY 4

SALT LAKE CITY

ARVO RECEPTION

JUNE 13

EYE AND EAR INSTITUTE

RESIDENT RESEARCH DAY

AUGUST 15

ENERGY ADVANCEMENT & INNOVATIONS CENTER

RETINA FORUM

OCTOBER 3-4

COLUMBUS

FALL VISION FORUM & TAILGATE

OCTOBER 18

ORLANDO

AAO RECEPTION

MARCH 13

VISUAL SCIENCES AND OPHTHALMOLOGY RESEARCH (ViSOR) SPEAKER

The ViSOR lecture series promotes engagement in the vision sciences research community at Ohio State.

ANJALI SHARMA, PhD
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER
Sayoko Moroi, MD, PhD
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
915 Olentangy River Rd, Suite 5000
Columbus, OH 43212-3154